

violations we imposed on the Japanese Americans during World War II as we shunned them from society as a result of their ethnicity.

Mr. Speaker, despite all the hardship and adversity that Asian Americans have faced during their time in the United States, the persistence and resilience of Asian Americans have allowed them to flourish into the leading minority group they are today.

I encourage my colleagues to learn from the history of Asian Americans in the United States, so that we may avoid the civil rights violations and discriminatory practices that hurt ethnic communities in the name of national security.

I would also like to encourage the future generations of Asian Americans to follow in the footsteps of their ancestors. Persist in your dreams of a fair America, persist in your desires for an equal America, and persist in your fight for an America that is as dedicated and tolerant of you as your ancestors have been with us.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the resolution offered by my friend from Virginia, Mr. DAVIS.

I represent approximately 85,000 Asian Pacific Islander Americans in my Congressional district in New York City.

I am proud to represent the most diverse Congressional District in the country. From the strong Korean community in Elmhurst to the Philippine community of Woodside to Indian American in Jackson Heights to Bangladesh Americans in Parkchester, this district reflects the diversity of the continent of Asia and is a true testament of the American melting pot experience.

Thousands of Asian Americans and South Asians have left their lives behind in their homeland, just as my grandparents did, to make a better life for themselves in New York City. They have succeeded from the shops of 74th Street to the presence of Asians at all levels of law, medicine and commerce in our city. They have also become true stakeholders in our political system.

From the election of Jimmy Meng and John Liu to the New York State Assembly and City Council respectively to Uma Sen Gupta's election as the first Indian American district leader, Asian and South Asians are a vibrant part of our City but the political fabric as well.

Asian Pacific American Heritage month began on June 30, 1977 when the first 10 days of May 1978 were declared Asian Pacific American Heritage week.

Today, there are over 12 million Asian Pacific Islander Americans living in the United States. By the year 2050, there will be an estimated 33.4 million U.S. residents who will identify themselves as Asian alone, which will comprise 8 percent of the total population. This is a projected 213 percent increase of Asian Pacific Islander Americans between 2000 and 2050.

I am proud to represent Asian American and celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage with all my constituents and colleagues.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, this month our nation pays tribute to the contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, including immigrants, refugees, and natives. More than 13 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, representing a diverse community of backgrounds,

cultures, and experiences, make their homes in the United States. Their unique contributions enhance the moral fabric and character of our great country.

The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community is a fast-growing minority group in the United States. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are making valuable contributions to every aspect of American life—from business to education to science to the arts. For example, there are now more than 900,000 AAPI-owned small businesses across the country.

As we celebrate the significant progress made by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, it is right for us to honor the memory of great leaders of the AAPI community who have passed away recently, and by far one of the greatest was our own Congressman Bob Matsui, who despite imprisonment in an internment camp during World War II, never lost faith in our country, and went on to become a national champion for all of America's seniors. We miss Bob dearly, but the voters of California have blessed us by sending his wife, the Gentlelady from California, Ms. DORIS MATSUI, to carry on his wonderful legacy in this body.

In memory of Bob Matsui and other great figures in the history of our nation, it is only fitting that this year's theme for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is "Liberty and Freedom for All." In my own district, we have our share of emerging leaders from the Asian community, including my friend Shing-Fu Hsueh, the mayor of West Windsor, who is a model public figure. Like Bob Matsui, Shing-Fu Hsueh is a believer in the American ideal, that anyone—regardless of religion, race, or gender—can realize their dreams for themselves and their children. Unfortunately, the faith of every member of New Jersey's Asian community in that American ideal has been sorely tested recently.

You see, on the very eve of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, two talk show hosts—whose program airs on one of the largest stations in New Jersey—made a most obnoxious, insulting, and despicable series of anti-Asian statements.

Last month, these shock jocks verbally demeaned Mr. Jun Choi, a Korean-American running for mayor of Edison, New Jersey, mockingly asking their listeners "Would you really vote for someone named Jun Choi?" They then preceded to say that "Americans" should govern our towns, counties, and country—as if Jun Choi, Shing-Fu Hsueh, and the thousands of other hard-working, tax-paying, and participating people of Asian heritage are not real Americans.

I could cite even more examples from this outrageous broadcast but I refuse to demean this House by repeating some of the other language that these two radio racists used. I'm extremely disappointed that the management of the radio station in question, 101.5 FM,

has not issued a written public apology to Jun Choi and the entire Asian community. In my judgment it is the absolute minimum they should do, and I also believe the station management should pledge never again to allow such racist rants to be aired on their station.

Mr. Speaker, as the Asian Pacific American community continues to contribute to our society and grow in influence—politically, economically, and culturally—I am pleased to say that Americans like Jun Choi, Shing-Fu Hsueh, and DORIS MATSUI are indeed taking leading roles in our self-governing country.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 280, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECOGNIZING 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE OF STATE OF ISRAEL

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con.Res. 149) recognizing the 57th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. CON. RES. 149

Whereas in May 1948, the State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent nation;

Whereas the United States was one of the first nations to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its creation;

Whereas Israel has provided the opportunity for Jews from all over the world to re-establish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils committed by the Nazis which were unprecedented in human history;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from attacks repeatedly since independence;

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring Governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations;